

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 NIC-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /119 W

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R 031400 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7326

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1029

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PGOV CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: MAKARIOS DECLARES PAPHOS SEE VACANT; SUMMONS
EXPANDED SYNOD TO TRY BISHOPS

REF: NICOSIA 1021

BEGIN SUMMARY: ARCHBISHOP HAS DECLARED BISHOPRIC
OF PAPHOS VACANT, HAS NOMINATED INTERIM OCCUPANT AND
SET IN MOTION PROCESSES FOR ELECTION OF SUCCESSOR.
SIMULTANEOUSLY, HE HAS ANNOUNCED DECISION TO CONVENE
SYNOD INCLUDING OFF- ISLAND CHURCH LEADERS TO CONSIDER
CHARGES LODGED AGAINST THE THREE BISHOPS WHO
ATTEMPTED TO DE- FROCK HIM. ISSUE NOW PLACED BEFORE
GRIVAS IS WHETHER HE WILL ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT MAKARIOS'
PLANS. IF HE DOES, ATHENS WILL FACE DECISION AS TO
WHETHER TO DISAVOW OR PERHAPS EVEN CURB HIM. END
SUMMARY.

1. LATE MAY 2, ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS DECLARED PAPHOS SEE
VACANT AND INSTRUCTED PRIESTS PREPARE ELECTORAL ROLL
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FOR ELECTION NEW BISHOP. TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATION
INSTALLED IN INTERIM. COMPLICATED THREE- TIER ELECTORAL
PROCESS ENVISIONS JUNE 3 SELECTION OF " SPECIAL REPRE-
SENTATIVE" , WHO IN TURN ELECT 36 " GENERAL REPRESENTATIVES"--
24 LAYMEN AND 12 CLERGY - ON JUNE 24. GENERAL REPRESENTATIVES
WILL THEN MEET, AT UNSPECIFIED DATE, WITH SYNOD AND OTHER
CHURCH DIGNITARIES TO SELECT NEW BISHOP.

2. AT SAME TIME, MAKARIOS ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION SUMMON
" MAJOR SYNOD", COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES NON- COMMUNIST
ORTHODOX PARTRIARCHATES, TO TRY REBEL BISHOPS ON CHARGES OF
" CONSPIRACY, CONVENTICLE, AND SCHISM". CHARGES WERE PRE-
FERRED BY ABBOTS OF KYKKO, MAKHERAS, AND AYIOS NEOFYTOS
MONASTERIES IN MEETING WITH MAKARIOS MAY 2. NO DATE SET
FOR " MAJOR SYNOD".

3. CYPRUS PRESS AND RADIO HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY
TO KING CONSTANTINE' S TELEGRAPHED EASTER GREETING TO
PRES MAKARIOS, WHICH IS INTERPRETED HERE AS ROYAL SUPPORT
FOR ARCHBISHOP IN ECCLESIASTICAL QUARREL.

4. ECCLESIASTICAL STRUGGLE HAS INTENSIFIED WITH BOTH SIDES'
EFFORTS TO CONTROL CHURCH FUNDS IN LOCAL BANKS, ACCORDING
TO SEVERAL SOURCES. FONMIN DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL PELAGHIAS
TELLS US BANKS CONFUSED BY LEGAL AMBIGUITIES AND UNWILLING
ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHURCH' S MASSIVE ACCOUNTS.
ADDITIONALLY, PELAGHIAS SAID CHURCH SPLIT DRAMATIZED BY
50 PERCENT REDUCTION IN ATTENDANCE AT ORTHODOX EASTER SER-
VICES. PELAGHIAS PLACED BLAME FOR SCHISM ON GRIVAS AND
STRONGLY CASTIGATED HIM AND HIS SUPPORTERS IN GREEK GOVT FOR
TEARING APART CYPRIOT SOCIETY.

5. COMMENT: IN CONVENING SYNOD, ARCHISHOP HAS ACTED
ALONG LINES HE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED, AS RECOMMENDED BY
CLERIDES (REFTEL). HOWEVER, SIMULTANEOUS DECISION TO MOVE
IMMEDIATELY AGAINST BISHOP OF PAPHOS VITIATES THRUST OF
CLERIDES' RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH WAS TO AVOID IMMEDIATE
CONFRONTATION BY USE OF SYNOD. WE ASSUME ARCHBISHOP FELT
HIS HAND FORCED BY COMPETITION FOR LOYALTIES OF PRIESTHOOD
(NICOSIA 996) AND BY POSSIBILITY THAT CONTEST WOULD TIE UP
CHURCH FUNDS IN LITIGATION. WHATEVER THE CAUSES, REMOVAL
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OF BISHOP OF PAPHOS NOW PLACES ISSUE SQUARELY BEFORE GRIVAS
AS TO WHETHER HE ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT EFFORT TO SELECT A
SUCCESSOR, OR APPEARS TO RETREAT BEFORE ARCHBISHOP' S
CHALLENGE. SIMILARLY, ATHENS IS LIKELY TO BE FACED WITH
PAINFUL CHOICE AS TO WHETHER TO LIVE UP TO REPORTED
PROMISES (E. G. NICOSIA 1026) TO CONDEMN GRIVAS OR EVEN
ACT AGAINST HIM IF HE RENEWS VIOLENCE.

POPPER

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